

**REMARKS**

The foregoing amendment amends claim 3. Now pending in the application are claims 3 and 5, of which claims 3 and 5 are independent. The following comments address all stated grounds for rejection and place the presently pending claims, as identified above, in condition for allowance.

**Patentable Subject Matter**

Claim 5 is allowed.

**Claim Amendments**

In the foregoing amendment, Applicants amend claim 3 as suggested by the Examiner in a telephone conference in April. In particular, claim 3 is amended to incorporate the limitations of the clip circuit recited in allowed claim 5. No new matter is added. In the telephone conference, the Examiner indicated that the amended claim is in condition for allowance.

**Rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,896,417 ("Lau"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,127,840 ("Coteus"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

In the foregoing amendment, claim 3 is amended to incorporate the limitations of the clip circuit, as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants submit that AAPA, Lau and Coteus do not teach that the clip circuit includes a resistor having one terminal connected to a reference potential, a bias current supply circuit for supplying a fixed bias current to the resistor; and a diode connected between the other terminal of the resistor and an output line of the AC coupling circuit, as recited in claim 3. In light of the foregoing amendment, Applicants submit that the

rejection of claim 3 is moot. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and pass the claim to allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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